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# HONGKONG DAILY PRESS

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Hongkong, 20th November, 1897. [2707]

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ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

FRIDAY, 2nd December, 1897.

at 9.15 P.M.

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Seals may be bought at Messrs. W. Robinson & Co. on and after MONDAY, the 26th November.

ALEX. CUMMING,  
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th November, 1897. [2708]

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A CHESTNUT AUSTRALIAN MAINE

sound, perfectly quiet, and good weight

carrier.

For Particulars apply to

M. KENNEDY,

Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2708]

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to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION

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(SATURDAY), 27th November, 1897.

Commencing at 2.30 P.M.

at his Sales Rooms No. 2, Letham Street,

A LARGE QUANTITY OF

MEN'S AND LADIES' TWEEDS, DRESSES

MATERIALS, PLAIN ETC.

COATS, JACKETS, CHAUSERS, DRESSES,

DENIM, SAILOR JACKETS, BOAT JACKETS,

WOOLLEN BLANKETS, TOWELS, &c.

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Also

An Invoice of FANCY GOODS, ME-

CHANICAL TOYS, INSTEADS, PLAIN

COATS, JACKETS, CHAUSERS,

DENIM, SAILOR JACKETS, BOAT JACKETS,

WOOLLEN BLANKETS, TOWELS, &c.

Now on View.

Terms.—As customary.

GEO. F. LAMMERT,

Advertiser.

Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2709]

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OF AUTUMN AND WINTER MATERIAL.

THE Undersigned has received instructions

to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION

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MONDAY, 26th November, 1897.

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at his Sales Rooms No. 2, Letham Street,

A LARGE QUANTITY OF

AUTUMN AND WINTER MATERIAL.

Comprising—

BLUE and BLACK COATINGS, NAVY

CLOTHES, CASHEMERE,

LOURED TWEEDS, HOMEPUNTS,

FLANNELS, PLAIN ETC., DENIM,

COATS, JACKETS, CHAUSERS,

BLUSH, MADIAS, GARMENTS,

WOOLLEN SINGLTS, WHITE SHIRTS,

WOOLLEN and RIBBLE STOCKINGS,

and a quantity of other material.

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Terms.—As customary.

GEO. F. LAMMERT,

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Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2710]

Douglas Steamship Company, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, AND TAMSIU.

The Company's Shipments

"FOR MOSSA."

Captain Hodges will be despatched for the

above ports on SUNDAY, the 28th inst., at

DAI-LIANG.

For Freight or Passage apply to

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2710]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR YUN-NANIA.

Terms.—As customary.

GEORGE F. LAMMERT,

Advertiser.

Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2711]

AUCTION.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions

to sell by

PUBLIC AUCTION

TO-MORROW

(SATURDAY), the 27th November, 1897.

Commencing at 2.30 P.M.

at his Sales Rooms No. 2, Letham Street,

the Residence of Captain BREWITT,

the wife of his son.

HODGEFIELD FURNITURE, LTD.

Comprising—

CANTON BLACKWOOD WARE, such

as: CURIO STAND, BASES, TABLES,

TEA STAND, COFFEE TABLE, CHAIRS,

STOCKINETTE WARE, GLASS,

WARE, CUTLERY, METALWARE,

MANTLE, SPEAK, CHIFFONNIER,

OCCASIONAL and TEA TABLES, PIC-

TURES, ENGRAVINGS, ORNAMENTS,

&c. &c.

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DINING CHAIRS, DINING WAGON,

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STOCKINETTE WARE, GLASS,

WARE, CUTLERY, METALWARE,

MANTLE, SPEAK, CHIFFONNIER,

OCCASIONAL and TEA TABLES, PIC-

TURES, ENGRAVINGS, ORNAMENTS,

&c. &c.

TERMS.—As customary.

GEO. F. LAMMERT,

Advertiser.

Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2712]

AUCTION.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

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PUBLIC AUCTION

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&c. &c.

TERMS.—As customary.

GEO. F. LAMMERT,

Advertiser.

Hongkong, 26th November, 1897. [2713]

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## INTIMATIONS

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Office, 37, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. [2657]

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FOR CHINA, JAPAN, COREA, INDO-CHINA,  
SINGAPORE, THE EAST AND WEST INDIA,  
SEAM, PHILIPPINES, BORNEO, &c.,  
WHICH ARE INCORPORATED  
THE CHINA DIRECTORY

AND  
THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY  
AND HON'L LIST FOR THE FAR EAST.  
FOR

1897.

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL ISSUE,  
which will be found, as hitherto, more full and  
accurate than its predecessors.

Royal Octavo. Complete with Maps and Plans  
pp. 1,280. \$7. Directory only, pp. 872. \$3.50.

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has just received FRESH SUPPLIES OF

WHOLESALE CONFECTIONERY

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DELICIOUS SWEETS

of the HIGHEST QUALITY and PURITY

These include—

CADBURY'S SPECIAL CREAMES  
PATE D'ABRICOT, JORDAN ALMONDS  
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FRENCH

CONFECTIONERY and CONSERVES  
in Large Assortment

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CHRISTMAS AND NEW  
YEAR CARDS

FOR THE COMING SEASON.

A very choice selection from the best sources.  
All of tasteful and novel designs.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 28th October, 1897. [22]

MARRIAGE.

On the 17th November, at the Swiss Consulate, Yokohama, by R. Kallen, Esq. (H. I. G. H. Vice Consul-General), Acting Swiss Consul, and afterwards at Christ Church, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irving, M.A., Paul Louis, son of Professor Ernest A. Vautier, of Geneva, to Gladys Mary, daughter of Charles D. Moss, of Tokohama.

DEATH.

On the 13th October, at Westgate-on-Sea, Edmund Cowell Miller, Esq., Clarendon Road, Holland Park, only surviving son of the late Major Edmund Miller, of the 11th Hussars, and grandson of General Sir William Towne, K.C.B., aged 74 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 26th, 1897.

We publish to-day a second letter by the Shanghai correspondent of the *Times*, in which the question of the internal taxation of foreign goods is ably dealt with, and a strict compliance with the terms of the treaty demanded. Unfortunately a reading of the treaty at variance alike with its letter and spirit has been adopted by the British Government, and the recovery of the ground so injudiciously surrendered will not be an easy task. The treaty says that goods having paid import duty and transit dues shall be free from all further charges whatsoever, but the British Government says, or did say thirty years ago, that when once the goods have passed out of the hands of the foreign importer they must take their chance in common with native goods and bear whatever impositions the rapacity or the necessities of Chinese administration may inflict. As all goods must necessarily pass into the hands of the native retail dealer before they reach the hands of the consumer it follows from this extraordinary reading of the treaty that they are all liable to unlighted taxation.

The *Times*, in an article upon its correspondent's letters, says: "To him who carefully considers the ways of the British Empire must always be a very surprising phenomenon"—a reflection with which we in Hongkong can very cordially agree—and that the letters under notice "give a succinct but vivid account of the history of British trade with China which represents with substantial accuracy the history of British empire-building as a whole. That trade is a monument of individual initiative and enterprise on the one hand, and of official incapacity to assist and profit by these things on the other." The great London organ recognises that in Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD we have a British Minister who understands how to deal with the Chinese, and after remarking that the whole question of taxation has been enveloped in clouds of diplomatic verbiage and confused dialectic, the article proceeds: "These must be brushed aside. We have to go back to the letter and spirit of the stipulation under which taxation of English

"goods is an agreed percentage at the port of entry and nothing more." It is admitted that some case for a revision of the tariff may be made out, but "the rates, revised or not, must not any longer be subject to increase at the good pleasure of every corrupt official through whose district the goods have to pass." We are afraid, however, that the question is not a matter of such plain sailing as the *Times* would represent. If two litigants went into a court of law with an agreement and a clear declaration of the interpretation they mutually placed upon the agreement the one who sought to set aside that declaration of interpretation and adopt another and different interpretation, even though it were prima facie a more rational interpretation, would lose his case.

It is reported that owing to the continued dispute in the port of the M. I. D. (Maritime Arbitrators) the Chinese are sending steamers to Australia for the purpose of importing coal. By using such steamers as are entitled to a bounty under the Steam Navigation Encouragement Law the import, it is thought, could be profitably carried on.

The final trial for the Poco Tocumal will begin 14th Dec. 1897, and will be presided over by Mr. Justice Gordon. The Officers of Major Retaliation and the Officers of the Hongkong Regiment will be in attendance. The sides will be composed as follows:—

14th Dec. 1897. R.A. M. A. EHRLICH, EXPARTE THE DEBTOR.

Ag. Makombe Ally Shirane, the debtor, came up for his public examination.

Mr. Thomas Deacon and Mr. Edward Jackson, solicitors, who are the agents for the Imperial Bank of Persia. Mr. de Castro D'Almeida watched the case on behalf of the debtor, and Mr. Bruce Shepherd (Official Receiver) conducted the examination.

The debtor, who spoke Hindustani, said he had resided in Hongkong nineteen years. He traded in his own business for eight years ago—with a capital of \$2,000. His income money. Up to three years ago his profits were from \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year, but during the last three years he had lost money in his dealing in opium and cotton. His principal creditors were the Imperial Bank of Persia, who were the holders of two drafts which he had not paid. He signed one of these in 1894, and the other in 1895.

The Official Receiver said that a man named Carreiro of Ispahan, Persia, had received the money, and endeavoured to find him had proved futile.

The debtor continued, and said the Bank being unable to recover the money from Carreiro, much witness, he lost the money. He was unable to pay the money and so he had to enter the bankruptcy court. Witnesses then entered into a detailed statement of his business transactions and said that his brother in Persia owed him over \$13,000, which he had no doubt would be paid.

The examination was concluded.

In the proclamations issued early this year recognising the validity of transit passes in Kwangtung and Kwangsi the claim to levy terminal taxation, so long as foreign goods were not differentiated against, was distinctly formulated. Against this the China Association protested in a letter to the Foreign Office dated 28th April, 1897, in which it was pointed out that the admission of the right of the Chinese to levy terminal taxation really permits them to collect, under the name of "destination dues" an amount calculated to reimburse them for the levies they abandon en route. The letter shows clearly enough that the interpretation which has been placed upon the treaty is an erroneous one, but it fails to indicate in what way the Government can recede from the mistaken position assumed thirty years ago.

The Association say, however, after referring to the misappropriation of the revenue derived from inland taxation on foreign goods—"Those best disposed towards China—and foreign residents in China are prevalencely well disposed—pled the impossibility, in presence of this malversation, of treating her like a European Power. The fact must be realised that we are here in presence of a 'rapacity' which is only bounded by the limit of endurance in the trading class; and foreign residents are as impatient as they were thirty years ago of seeing their commerce restricted by exactions which they know to be in a large proportion wasted or misappropriated." They are persuaded that the only hope of financial salvation for China lies in such steady resistance to taxation as may compel administrative reform; and the phenomenal improvement effected in Korean finance during the brief period Mr. McLeavy Brows has been allowed a free hand may be contrasted with the present situation in China as an argument for the truth of this contention as opposed to the policy of tolerance laid down by the Board of Trade.

Let the British Government then abandon the farce of dealing with Chinamen with European Power, and inform her frankly that notwithstanding any previous admissions as to the right of terminal taxation such taxation must now be abandoned once and for all. If it is necessary to give reasons for this course the Chinese Government can be informed that the rapacity of its officials has passed all bounds formerly considered possible and that circumstances alter cases. If then be taken into consideration, but the principle of one single payment clearing the goods from all further taxation should be insisted upon uncompromisingly.

Read reply, dated 25th Oct., stating that copies of Chamber's letter had been forwarded to Admiralty and Hydrographer of Navy, and that instructions would be given to officers of the Royal Navy to the effect that application may be made through the Commanders-in-Chief of the Home and Colonial Stations to the Admiralty for any awards to fishermen or others for impounding information concerning unknown or hidden dangers.

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(with a sufficiency of gunboats for river work) in the China Seas.

To sum up, therefore, the position. The following appear to be the best and least inconvenient course to be adopted by British diplomats, not only as the basis of treaty revision, but as conditions essential in all future relations with the Chinese Government—

1.—The strict observance of existing treaty stipulations.

2.—Free transit through China, all inland charge being computed in one fixed duty payable. The proper designation of the port payable to Hongkong, in view of the fact that the same could probably best be determined by aid of an extension of the foreign Customs Collectorate. Any increase in the treaty tariff should be conceded only upon the condition of equality covering the whole Empire, and under guarantee.

3.—A recognition of the general principle that the extension of trade is the best hand to be encouraged by the Chinese Government.

4.—The removal of all artificial obstructions upon commerce, such as excessive taxation of export staples, absence of standard coinage, want of development of mineral resources, &c., &c.

5.—Improved means of communication, by steam navigation and (or) railways, between all important trade centers.

6.—Internal administrative reform; reduction in the numbers of officials, leaving an adequately paid civil service.

More points to be kept in view are the necessity for improved legislation which foreigners now demand of the Chinese in the main. Contracts (such Chinese definition of jurisdiction) must be made practically exempt from jurisdiction, and the clearer definition of the duties and powers of provincial authorities as far as British Consular officers. In conclusion, it remains to be said that since revision of the Treaty of Tientsin may be refused by either England or China, and since there is little prospect of this revision, it would be better for both countries to appear amicable to both countries, it would seem advisable that England's policy in the immediate future should not reckon unduly upon the probability of any such negotiations. If over the day comes for treaty revision, Great Britain will be able to obtain from the Chinese Government such concessions as shall mutually promote foreign trade in the best interest of the Chinese. It is our earnest hope, however, in the meanwhile, to neglect no opportunity of exercising such timely pressure as may be available, and to avoid giving the Chinese Government anything like a half-hearted or uncertain attitude. A British Minister of tact and ability at Peking, strongly supported by the Foreign Office, will make many useful years to lessen the fatigues that still should be suffered by the Celestial Empire than all the work and wars of the last two generations. Such a Minister is at Peking, and the rest is probably sufficient for all immediate needs; all that is therefore required is a firm, consistent, and well-directed policy on the part of her Majesty's Government.

#### PAY IN THE CHINESE CUSTOMS.

The heavy depreciation in silver and its effect on the value of the Chinese dollar have been noticed from time to time in our columns. We have pointed out more than once that the Chinese Government, by refusing from any steps to compensate its employes of the Customs service, was neglecting a plain duty; disregarding the example of the Indian and Colonial Governments, and of business houses in the East, was showing a great want of appreciation for the importance of what we regard as a lively spirit of discontent in the service.

It is with much interest we now learn that an appeal, signed by all the members of the service, is being forwarded to the Government through the Inspector-General. The service requests the issue of a "compensation allowance" which will enable salaries to be paid on the basis of 50 to 60 Taels. We invite the attention of the Inspector-General to the fact that the question of the increase of all salaries, such compensation allowance will, at present, amount to an issue of about a million taels per annum; it will of course decrease as exchange improves, if ever so does. There should be no difficulty in obtaining the issue of such a comparatively trifling sum. We feel that the Inspector-General will do his duty to further the cause of the service, and that he may rely on the assistance of the Diplomatic Corps at Peking in urging this a long needed and well earned consideration for their nationals.—*N. C. Daily News.*

#### THE STAR-ANISE OIL TRADE.

Messrs Schimmed & Co., of Leipzig and New York, their semi-annual report issued last month, state—

The real census of the rice in price of this oil towards the end of July is still an open question, as no one is able to account for it. The Chinese pretend that the present crop will yield only one-half of the normal amount. Other reports say that a Hongkong firm has entered a contract for 250 cases at a low rate and now seems to count out from its engagement. Both factors and have been in raising prices. These reached their culmination in September with quotations of 9/3 against 6/- to 6/3 in the last week of July. If the yield of this year's distillation is correctly estimated as amounting to about 1,600 cases, this figure would correspond to half of the normal production of last year. In this case a further rise of 6/- may take place during the marketing period.

Upon the suggestions proposed in our last report, several Hongkong firms have expressed their readiness to guarantee a minimum point of solidification at 4° C. Purchasers should in their own interest not accept an oil with a lower point of solidification.

The oil is derived from Tonkin, by way of France, several instances of oil being solidified at 4° C. and solidified at 4° + 1°. The readiness and the intelligent care with which our well-considered suggestions were accepted in this French colony are deserving of due acknowledgment. There can be no doubt that it will obtain a larger share of the trade in oil star-anise if the Tonkin experts continue in supplying so excellent and reliable a product.

The question has recently been raised whether the point of solidification of oil star-anise is lowered by the rectification of the oil. By careful tests we have ascertained that, by rational and promptly performed rectification, it is raised by 0.5°. But we do not deem it unlikely that the point of solidification may be lowered by the rectification of the oil, in consequence of the transformation of a part of the anethole by oxidation into anisic aldehyde.

The question arises at the same time whether an artificial increase of the point of solidification by the addition of anisic acid would escape detection, and such sophistication would fail to lose the specific gravity and decrease the solubility of the oil.

#### SHIPPING REPORTS.

The British steamer *Taivon*, from Moji 21st Nov., had strong northerly wind and high seas; weather fine and clear.

The British steamer *Fornox*, from Tamsui 22nd Nov., Adyar 23rd, and Swatow 24th, had strong northerly wind and cloudy weather to Amoy.

From Amoy light winds and cloudy weather and fine weather to Swatow. From Swatow fresh N.W. to N.E. wind and fine weather to port.

#### EXPORT CARGO.

For British steamship *Winton*, sailed on the 21st November. For London—250 boxes tea (42,836 lbs.), 580 packages rice hide, 450 casts soy, 200 casts ginger, 100 cases preserves, 51 barrels case, 17 cases bottles, 10 cases essential oil, 2 packages tea & jujubes. For Manchester—200 pieces tea & tobacco. For Glasgow—50 cases dry fish. For Liverpool—100 boxes tea and 1 case engineering instruments. For Rotterdam—200 boxes ginger. For Suez—100 boxes castor.

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15 to 25% Discount allowed. [1283]

#### INTIMATIONS.

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Chemistry for Engineers and Manufacturers, by Blout and Blom, Chemistry of Manufacturing Processes, 10.00  
Chemistry, Engineering, Building and Metallurgy, 6.00  
Police—The Effect of Detection, by A. Winter Blyth, 13.00  
Foods—Their Composition and Analysis, by A. Winter Blyth, 13.00  
ANGLO-CHINESE DATE BLOCK, BOY'S ANNUAL, GIEL'S ANNUAL, LETTS' DIARIES, 1898. QUEEN'S ROAD, UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL. [24]

#### KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

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#### NOTICE.

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28, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.

LATEST NOVELTIES FOR AUTUMN.

Hongkong, 1st October, 1897. [228]

#### CARBOLINEUM-AVENARIUS USED FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

Thoroughly reliable preservative for Wood and Stone against White Ants, Decay, Fungi, Rot, and Dampest.

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LITGENS, EINSTMANN & CO., Hongkong, 31st August, 1897. [369]

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